

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House
(317) 232-9855

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6906

BILL NUMBER: HB 1992

DATE PREPARED: Feb 3, 2001

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Costs of Care of Mentally Ill Persons.

FISCAL ANALYST: Kathy Norris

PHONE NUMBER: 234-1360

FUNDS AFFECTED: X

**GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL**

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill provides that when the comfort and care of a mentally ill individual who is committed to a mental health or other facility is not provided by the individual's family, friends, or estate or by the Division of Family and Children or a county office of the Division, the court may order that assistance be furnished and paid for out of the County General Fund for the first 30 days and by the Division of Mental Health after that time.

Effective Date: July 1, 2001.

Explanation of State Expenditures: This bill would give courts the authority to require the Division of Mental Health to pay for the care of an individual unable to pay for care and who has been waiting more than 30 days for admission to a state-operated facility. The bill limits the current provision that allows the court to order that the care provided pending admission to a state-operated facility be paid for from the county general fund to 30 days. The cost of this bill would be dependent upon the number of patients waiting for admission to state-operated facilities and reasons for delays. Cost would also be dependent upon the rates of the facility that the patient is being treated pending admission to a state-operated facility. The Division of Mental Health reports that there is currently no waiting list for state-operated facility beds.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: This bill would limit the counties' responsibility for funding an individual's care while awaiting admission to a state-operated facility. The impact of this provision on county general funds is unknown. If the court does not currently order a county to assume the expense, the local community mental health center or private hospital has had to absorb the cost of these individual's care pending admission to another facility.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Family and Social Services Administration, Division of Mental Health.

Local Agencies Affected: Local courts and mental health services.

Information Sources: Susan Preble, Legislative Liaison, Family and Social Services Administration, (317)-232-1149.